Services	2005		2006		2007	
	Vacancy	Joined	Vacancy	Joined	Vacancy	Joined
Army	2575	2165	3132	2230	2380	2083
Navy	540	415	540	390	550	474
Air Force	636	403	468	415	507	485

The shortfall in recruitment of officers in the three services are largely due to changes in the socio-economic environment and the resultant change in career preferences, better employment opportunities in other sectors, tough selection procedures and service conditions required for the Armed Forces etc. Several steps have been taken by the three Services to attract more talented youth to join the Defence Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) have been made eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel and equivalents after 2,6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC Officers have been extended to 14 years in the three Services.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

The Government has also appointed VI Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of the Government servants including Armed Forces. The three Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other service conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Service Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

As far as recruitment of Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBOR) in the Armed Forces in concerned, there is an adequate response from all regions of the country and there is no shortage of PBORs in the Armed Forces. Therefore, the existing system is considered satisfactory.

Modernisation of NTC Mills

*106. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has spent about Rs. 530 crore for modernization of NTC mills and the production facilities have been upgraded;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the future programme of NTC in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) As per the Modified Revival Scheme approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), 22 mills are to be modernised by National Textile Corporation (NTC)

itself at an estimated cost of Rs. 530 crores through generation of funds from sale of assets of unviable mills and surplus assets of viable mills. So far, NTC has spent Rs. 261.93 crores on modernization of 18 out of the 22 mills. The expenditure has been incurred on purchase of new machinery, civil, electrical & humidification work and on preparation for installation of machinery etc. 30 Mills are to be modernized and run through Joint Venture, out of which 2 mills have already been closed and 10 mills are proposed for closure as most of employees of these mills have opted for VRS.

There are 2 potentially viable NTC mills in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, one mill *viz.* Tirupati Cotton Mills has been identified for modernization through joint venture route. Its has been decided to close another mill viz. Ananthapur Cotton Mill as most of the workers have opted for Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) and there is no production activity in this mill.

It has also been decided to construct an Indian Textile Plaza on the land of Jehangir Mill at Ahmedabad and India International Trade Tower in Mumbai on the land of one of the closed mills.

Upgradation of ITIs as Centres of Excellence

*107. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the elements of the Centres of Excellence for the ITIs;

(b) on what basis are they selected under this scheme;

(c) of these, in how many, the Institute Management Committees (IMCs) with private participation are in place and how are the Members of the IMC selected; and

(d) how many of the 100 ITIs taken up for upgradation during 2006-07, have availed the aid from World Bank and what is the pattern of financing this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The major elements of Centres of Excellence scheme include introduction of multi skilling courses in ITIs and upgradation of existing infrastructure through procurement of new equipment, renovation/addition of civil infrastructure such as class room or workshop with special focus on training of instructors.

(b) ITIs covered under the scheme are selected by the respective State Governments but these have to be affiliated to National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the number of the ITIs selected in each State is in proportion to the number of the total Government ITIs in that State.

(c) A total of 345 ITIs participating in the scheme have formed Institute Management Committees (IMCs). The members are selected by the State Governments as per the prescribed composition of the IMC.

(d) Out of 100 ITIs taken up for upgradation during 2006-07, so far 96 ITIs have been released funds under the World Bank project. The funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government is in the ratio of 75:25 for all States except the States